

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A system for completing a diagramless crossword puzzle having a solution grid defining a rectilinear array of cells, the completion system comprising:

5 a plurality of overlays each having a first and a second surface, each overlay including a grid formed on the first surface thereof, the grid of each overlay defining an array of cells, wherein the overlays are selectively placable on a surface of the solution grid such that the array of cells of the overlay correspond with the rectilinear array of cells of the solution grid.

10

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein each overlay is fabricated from a flexible sheet material.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein the flexible sheet material is at  
15 least one of a paper-based material and a plastic film-based material.

4. The system according to claim 3, wherein each overlay includes a coating of a selectively repositionable adhesive medium provided on at least a portion of the second surface thereof.

20

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the adhesive medium is at least one of acrylate co-polymers, silicone materials, urethanes, and fluoro-polymers.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein a plurality of overlays are operatively joined to one another in a sheet of overlays.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein a plurality of sheets of overlays  
5 are operatively joined to one another in a stack.

8. The system according to claim 6, wherein each overlay of each sheet is separated from one another by a line of perforations.

10 9. The system according to claim 8, further including at least one solution grid having a rectilinear array of cells.

10. The system according to claim 9, further comprising a set of instructions for using the completion system.

15

11. The system according to claim 10, further comprising at least one set of clues for completing a diagramless crossword puzzle.

12. A method of solving a diagramless crossword puzzle, the method  
20 comprising the steps of:

providing a diagramless crossword puzzle completion system, the completion system including at least:

a plurality of overlays each having a first and a second surface, each overlay including a grid formed on the first surface thereof, the grid of each overlay defining an array of cells, wherein the overlays are selectively placable on a surface of the solution grid such that the array of cells of the overlay correspond with the rectilinear array of cells of the solution grid;

5 identifying corner cells of the diagramless crossword puzzle;

placing a first overlay on a solution grid;

beginning resolution of a portion of the puzzle on the first overlay;

marking each cell immediately adjacent to a cell corresponding to the final letter

10 of each Across answer and each Down answer;

beginning resolution of other portions of the puzzle on other overlays; and

arranging the overlays to resolve the diagram of the puzzle.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

15 determining a length of a first Across answer;

numbering the cells to the right from an upper left-most cell from the number one up to the number of the length of the first Across answer; and

marking a cell to the right of the cell corresponding to the final cell for the first Across answer.

20

14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

placing another overlay over at least a portion of the first overlay;

transposing the marked cells of the first overlay to the another overlay;

rotating the another overlay by 180°; and

placing the another overlay on a lower right-most portion of the solution grid.

15. The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of  
5 determining the size of a solution grid for the puzzle.

16. The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of identifying the  
corner cells includes:

marking Across clues and Down clues, sharing a common clue number, with  
10 identifying indicia.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of determining the  
length of the first Across answer includes:

subtracting one from the number of a second Across clue.  
15

18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of  
determining a length of a second Across answer, wherein the step of determining the  
length of the second Across answer includes subtracting the length of the first Across  
answer from the number of a third Across clue.

20

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of beginning  
resolution of the puzzle includes determining answers for the Across clues and the Down  
clues.

20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of placing overlays on at least an upper-half portion of the solution grid.

5           21. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of resolving the puzzle on the overlays placed on at least the upper-half portion of the solution grid.

22. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of:  
10           placing additional overlays on the overlays covering at least the upper-half portion of the solution grid; and  
transposing any marked cells from the overlays covering at least the upper-half portion of the solution grid to the additional overlays.

15           23. The method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of:  
rotating the additional overlays; and  
placing the additional overlays on a lower-half portion of the solution grid.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of providing the  
20   completion system further includes:  
providing at least one solution grid having a rectilinear array of cells.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of providing the completion system further includes:

providing a set of instructions for using the completion system.

5 26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the overlays lay one atop at least a portion of another.

27. The method according to claim 12, wherein the placing of the first overlay on the solution grid includes placing an upper left-most cell of the overlay on a cell of the  
10 solution grid located in an upper row of the solution grid and on a cell of the solution grid located to the right of a left-most column of the solution grid.

28. A kit for completing a diagramless crossword puzzle, the kit comprising:  
at least one solution grid defining a rectilinear array of cells; and  
15 a plurality of overlays each having a first and a second surface, each overlay including a grid formed on the first surface thereof, the grid of each overlay defining an array of cells, wherein the overlays are selectively placable on a surface of the solution grid such that the array of cells of the overlay correspond with the rectilinear array of cells of the solution grid, wherein each overlay includes a coating of a selectively  
20 repositionable adhesive medium provided on at least a portion of the second surface thereof.

29. The kit according to claim 28, further comprising:

instructions for using the plurality of overlays to resolve a diagramless crossword puzzle.

30. The kit according to claim 29, further comprising a booklet of clues.

5